A COGNITIVE STYLISTIC ANALYSIS OF LEWIS CAPALDI'S SONG "SOMEONE YOU LOVED"

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Abstract: Cognitive stylistics is a branch of linguistics that focuses on the study of how language and literature interact with human cognition and mental processes. This study presents a cognitive stylistic analysis of Lewis Capaldi's song "Someone You Loved." This study aims to explore the cognitive processes and stylistic features employed in the song's lyrics. This research uses a descriptive qualitative method by focusing on, highlighting, and analyzing each lyric in the song. The results of this study show the coherence among figures of speech used in the song. In conclusion, this study contributes to understanding how cognitive processes and stylistic choices intertwine in constructing emotional narratives within song lyrics.

Key Terms: *cognitive stylistic; song; lewis capaldi; figure of spee*ch

INTRODUCTION

Cognitive refers to the mental processes involved in thinking, perceiving, and reasoning. It is concerned with the act of knowing, learning, and comprehending things. Cognitive refers to the mental processes involved in thinking, perceiving, and reasoning, and cognitive psychology is the study of these processes. Attention, perception, memory, language, problem-solving, and reasoning are all cognitive functions. The cognitive approach holds that language is "the product of general cognitive processes that enable the human mind to conceptualize experience called embodied understanding, rather than of a separate structural system within the brain" (Esfehani, 2012). Nonetheless, as she demonstrates, cognitive science and cognitive psychology in particular have grown in prominence, with academics becoming increasingly interested in the human mind, body, and brain. As the description, cognitive, suggests, this sub-branch of stylistics has to do with cognition and the mind (Callejas et al., 2021).

Stylistics is a branch of applied linguistics concerned with the study of style in texts. Stylistics places a major emphasis on studying the aesthetic aspect of language in its two media: written and oral. Stylistics looks into many types of language stretches including literary texts, speeches, legal texts, news reports, advertisements, jokes, and many more (Ghazala, 2018). According to Asad and Batool (2020)**,** "Stylistics is the study of the style which can be applied in both literary and non-literary texts". Before the 20th century, stylistics dealt only with

literary texts, but from the 20th century, it began to also deal with non-literary texts. For example: law, religion, advertising, newspapers, etc.

Cognitive stylistics is a sub-discipline in the field of applied linguistics that provides a new way of thinking about literature involving the application of cognitive linguistics and psychology to the literary texts. Cognitive stylistics is primarily focused on providing a descriptive and thorough description of textual linguistic elements in a mechanical and non-evaluative manner. Cognitive stylistics views humans as cognitive human beings who rely on their prior knowledge and experiences to comprehend literary texts. A similar view on cognitive style is related not only to text but also to the mind's contribution to reading. In other words, cognitive style explores how certain types of metaphorical images can only be understood using the reader's knowledge, beliefs, and inferences (Hussein et al., n.d.).

In this study the researchers use the Lewis Capald's song "Someone you loved" as a data in analyzing Cognitive stylistics with Schema Theory. "Someone You Loved" is a song written by Lewis Capaldi, a Scottish singer-songwriter. It was released as a download on November 8, 2018, by Vertigo Records and Universal Music. It was the third single from his second extended play, Breach 2018. The lyrics of the song deal with the end of a relationship and family bereavement. Despite being only 22 years old at the time of the song's release, Capaldi demonstrated a unique talent and tenderness that touched the hearts of millions. Based on its objectives, this study is divided into two main parts: The theoretical foundation section covers two main aspects. The first one, this section describes cognitive style as an academic discipline within the field. Linguistics places special emphasis on schema theory and conceptual metaphor theory. The second discusses figures of speech as a creative strategy and novelty in language use. After doing this, in the second part, the search gives an overview of the lyrics to Lewis Capaldi's "Someone You Loved". Then, a detailed cognitive style analysis is proposed to include three models of Creativity and novelty in "Someone You Loved": (1) the coherence between figures of speech; (2) new conceptual mapping and new image schemas; and (3) extensive and complex figurative imagery.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Ghazala (2018), cognitive techniques are appealing because they are promising in terms of providing insight into the nature and impacts of difference, both in translation and stylistics, as both are developing new cognitive approaches. In a manner that other components of language do not, they see style as a mirror of the mind and a matter of choice. These style choices are cognitive.

Cognitive stylistics expands the realm of literary study and literary analysis by taking the human mind into account. That is, when undertaking a stylistic examination of cognition, take the mind into account, schema theory, text world theory, conceptual metaphor, and mental space theory are some of the key concepts and tools that are used to transfer, adapt, interpret, and mix mental constructs and play a crucial and significant part in cognitive stylistics (Zeb, 2021).

According to Areef (2016), cognitive stylistics views readers as cognitive creatures who draw on their prior knowledge and experiences to comprehend literary texts. For the reader to have a thorough understanding of the text and context, situations and uses, knowledge and beliefs, cognitive stylistics provides crucial tools. It can therefore be viewed as a place where readers might begin to comprehend and approach how a literary context is constructed.

The first literature review for this analysis is the article *(A Cognitive Stylistic Analysis of Simon's Lyric "The Sound of Silence")* in (Areef, 2016). This earlier study examined the lyrics to Simon's song "The Sound of Silence" using a cognitive stylistic analysis. It makes an effort to investigate innovative and creative language use patterns. It is primarily interested in

examining how references might be employed in "The Sound of Silence" as a creative and original element.

This analysis looks at the several metaphors that Simon uses and demonstrates how these uses lead to new image schemas and metaphorical mappings. This study also demonstrates how the wide and intricate use of figurative phrases, along with the coherence between allusions, result in the development of new stylistic frameworks and metaphorical formulas that represent concepts of innovation and originality in the lyrics.

With this in mind, the use of figures of speech in literary texts is vital since it allows researchers to employ words to express new meanings. More particularly, as Trim emphasizes, the development of new metaphorical mapping demonstrates the necessity for alternative means of expressing ideas and experiences to traditional language representations. For this paper, special emphasis will be given to schema theory and figure of speech as they are generally used in cognitive stylistic analysis and they offer some important analytical frameworks to apply in the analysis section (Areef, 2016).

A schema is a cognitive structure that incorporates common information that helps readers comprehend reality by extrapolating aspects that are either not discussed at all or are not fully explained in the text. Reading poetical language necessitates certain cognitive processes in readers' minds to absorb the information and make sense of what is being read. Schema is used to describe the nature of a story by demonstrating how an inference may be drawn to link events and provide more information and interpretation of what is conveyed. Mind style is studied in schema theory, which entails investigating the thinking of characters that experience the world differently than adults, such as mad individuals and toddlers. The phrase "mind style" refers to a deviant thinking style rather than a generic thinking (Jaafar, 2020).

The notion of schemas looks to be a "significant landmark" in cognitive stylistic research. It focuses on how individuals' minds cognitively represent knowledge and use it to understand information. Schema theory investigates how humans link their world knowledge with text interpretation through the process of reorganizing existing schemes to produce a new world perspective. As a result, the premise behind using schema theory in the study of literature is that reading any form of literary text is heavily reliant on the reader's existing knowledge and experiences. That is, when people read a text, their interpretation is based on their own understanding of the surrounding world. Conversely, conceptual metaphors theory is regarded as crucial in cognitive stylistics. Early publications described it as "a series of asymmetric mappings stored in long-term memory uniting structure from a more concrete source domain to a more abstract target domain". Acknowledges that metaphors extend or alter schemata by providing new methods of mapping the physical world on to the textual realm.

Conceptual metaphor is distinguished by the fact that it is not restricted to individual words, but rather entails the reconceptualization of an entire idea or experience in terms of another. By constructing new schemata, metaphors in literature create fresh and difficult ways to view the world. The creation of new conceptual metaphors in a text can have a substantial impact on how individuals view the world around them (Areef, 2016).

Figurative language is also known as metaphorical language or simply metaphor because its Greek ancestor "Metaphereien" means to carry meaning beyond its literal meaning (meta = beyond = pherein = to bring - i.e. to bring beyond, it has the basic function to carry meaning from literal meaning to the figurative level). Figurative language allows for so many distinct styles to be expressed. A figure of speech plays an important function in song lyrics or any other literary work. Figurative language also contains terminology such as simile, metaphor, personification, hyperbole, irony, contradiction, and so on. By using figurative language, writers can create emotion and imagination from their writing, so figurative language makes expressing meaning through writing easier and more relatable to the reader. Capaldi has

claimed that the song was inspired by a previous romance. The lyrics discuss the agony of losing someone you care about and being unable to move on even after they are gone; it is about whether or not you have moved on from someone. It's about loving someone and then either breaking up with them or losing them, or something along those lines. You still love them, but you're attempting to let go of that feeling. Listeners have also had significant emotional responses to the song. Many people have shared their personal stories of loss and sadness, as well as how the music has helped them cope (Permana et al., 2018).

METHOD

Qualitative research primarily focuses on exploring how individuals comprehend and interpret their real-life experiences using their language and mental processes. Qualitative researchers gather information to delve into individuals' perceptions of the world through narratives. These narratives serve as a means for individuals to articulate their understanding of the world. While narratives predominantly take the form of spoken or written expressions, they can also manifest in various other communication mediums. This includes diaries, literary or journalistic works, audio or video recordings, artworks, and even meticulous observation of individuals in their behavioral observation (Cropley, 1971).

In qualitative research, narratives often incorporate interviews, although this isn't a universal practice. There are instances where direct interaction between the researcher and the subjects may not occur at all. The diverse array of narrative sources underscores the flexibility and adaptability of qualitative research methods in capturing the nuanced aspects of individuals' perspectives on the world.

The data for this study were taken from the song "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi. To find the data on cognitive stylistics in this text, the researchers used the following procedure.

1. Pay close attention to the song and read the lyrics several times to get a sense of what the song about is.
2. Highlight the lyrics of each song and analyze the data and draw a conclusion.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

General Overview

Lewis Capaldi, a Scottish singer-songwriter, released "Someone You Loved" as his third single on Virgin Records in 2018. Lewis wrote this song, which went on to become his first number one in the UK single charts and the country's best-selling song of the year. The song is ultimately about introspection and loss, although Lewis Capaldi's writing on the loss stems from two distinct, painful events in his life. In what he has called the saddest song he has ever written; Lewis sings a piano-centered ballad about lamenting the end of a relationship and telling his ex-partner how much he misses her affection. In a conversation with The Courier, the singer clarified that the song captures "that feeling when you start getting to know someone and things have been going well but you've been reluctant to be as open as you like with stuff in the past and all that." The words, he continued, "explore his fears of being vulnerable with his partners," implying that "as soon as you let them in something goes wrong," as if he expected them to desert him before he had a chance to become accustomed to their affection. "Someone You Loved" was also the result of Lewis's sorrow following a devastating family loss: the death of his grandmother. Many people can identify with this song because, occasionally, we take individuals for granted without realizing it until it's too late to change it. We are left with nothing and start to feel empty when a relationship ends, and that's when we start thinking about all the things we will genuinely miss about that person. This song is about

giving someone your entire attention and energy and how difficult it is when things don't turn out the way you had hoped (Rose, 2019).

Patterns of Creativity

In this section, the researchers focus on the figure of speech contained in the song "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi which implies a new expression in it and becomes a beautiful and easy-to-understand meaning for listeners.

The Coherence among Figures of Speech

Personification

Personification is a literary strategy that includes connecting non-human or inanimate objects, animals, or abstract concepts with human characteristics. It's used for creating a vivid picture or making a topic accessible. Personification may also refer to the representation of an abstract notion or attribute as a person or fictitious creature. It is a powerful tool that may improve creative writing and other kinds of communication by adding depth and significance (Banhatti, n.d.). The lyrics provided are from the song "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi. Here identify and explain the personification in the lyrics:

> *"Now the day bleeds*
>
> *Into nightfall"*

The phrase "the day bleeds" conveys the day, giving an image of the day gradually shifting into the night. Because days do not physically bleed, this is a lyrical description of the transition from day to night.

> *"And you're not here*
>
> *To get me through it all"*

The lyric attributes the power to help or result in the time itself by suggesting that the absence of the person is hindering the speaker from getting through the day. In actuality, time lacks the human capacity to aid someone, thus this is personification.

> *"I let my guard down*
> *And then you pulled the rug"*

The metaphorical image of "pulled the rug" is used in this sentence to suggest a sudden and unexpected shift in the speaker's conditions. The rug is a dead thing, yet it is given agency as if it tricked or startled the speaker on purpose.

> *"I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved"*

The speaker represents the state of being "used to" something. Getting adapted to a situation is a human experience, however, it is depicted here as if the sensation has consciousness or awareness.

Metaphor

Metaphor, according to Knickerbocker and Reningeer in (Chairunnisa, 2017), is a figure of speech in which an inferred comparison is established between two dissimilar entities that share something in common. Here identify and explain the metaphor in the lyrics:

> *"I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain"*

The act of numbing pain is symbolically equated to a bodily sense in this sentence. It means that the person addressed in the song gave comfort to the speaker, allowing them to escape emotional pain.

> *"And then you pulled the rug"*

The metaphor of pulling the rug is used in this statement to describe a sudden and unexpected change or disruption in the speaker's life. It means the individual in issue abruptly ended a connection or created a substantial shift in the speaker's feelings.

> *"And I tend to close my eyes when it hurts sometimes"*

A common metaphor for avoiding or fleeing emotional pain is to close one's eyes when it hurts. It shows a wish to avoid immediately addressing the suffering to block out its actuality.

> *"I fall into your arms,*
> *I'll be safe in your sound 'til I come back around"*

A metaphor for looking for consolation and comfort in someone else is to fall into their arms. The phrase "safe in your sound" alludes to feeling comfort and security in one's voice or manner of expressing oneself.

Simile

A simile is a figurative speech used to compare two objects. According to Putri (2021) claims that metaphorical language is employed to compare objects that are fundamentally unlike. In a simile, a word or phrase like as, as, than, similar to, resembles, or looks is used to express the similarity. Here the identify and the simile are explained in the lyrics:

> *"I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain"*

This statement suggests a parallel between the way the individual numbed the pain and a fondness for that sensation, even though it doesn't use "like" or "as" directly. It is implied that the numbing process was enjoyable or consoling in a manner akin to what the speaker finds enjoyable.

Hyperbola

Hyperbole is a type of figurative language that conveys an obvious exaggeration and whose literal interpretation is impossible (Tuzzahrah, 2016). Here identify and explain the hyperbole in the lyrics:

> *"This all or nothing really got a way of driving me crazy"*

This sentence uses hyperbole to highlight how a situation's all-or-nothing nature can drive the speaker insane by emphasizing how much of an emotional impact it has. The effect is overstated to highlight how serious and difficult the situation is.

> *"I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain"*

The phrase "numbed all the pain" demonstrates the use of hyperbole here. It says how much the person being addressed relieved the speaker's emotional agony. It implies that their presence was extremely strong and comforting, amplifying the impact of their departure.

> *"I let my guard down*
> *And then you pulled the rug"*

This sentence employs hyperbole to underline the person's actions' quickly and dramatic impact. It means the speaker's weakness was greeted with a shocking and unexpected betrayal, increasing the emotional effect of the situation.

Alliteration

Alliteration is a figure of speech that can be identified by the repeated sound of the initial letter in a series of numerous words or by the repeating of the same letter sounds in stressed syllables of a phrase. This sound repetition draws attention to the lines where it is employed and generates greater auditory rhythm. In poetry, alliteration may also refer to a repeating consonant sound in a line's emphasized syllables (Hasanah, 2017). Here, the identify and the alliteration are explained in the lyrics:

"I'm going under and this time I fear there's no one to save me"

In this line, the repetition of the "s" sound in "save me" and "this time" creates alliteration. The repetition of the "s" sound adds a sense of emphasis and draws attention to the speaker's fear and vulnerability.

"I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain"

The repetition of the "k" sound in "kinda liked" and "numbed" creates alliteration. This alliteration adds a rhythmic quality to the line and emphasizes the speaker's fondness for the way the person addressed alleviated their pain.

"I let my guard down
And then you pulled the rug"

Here, the repetition of the "p" sound in "pulled" and "pulled the rug" creates alliteration. This alliteration adds a sense of abruptness and emphasizes the suddenness and impact of the person's actions.

Imagery

Imagery is used to generate mental pictures, not just visual ones, but also those of experience and emotion, it is a source of inspiration for reading and interpreting a literary work. While imagery is most commonly associated with figurative language, it is a broad term that refers to all components of a poem that motivate the senses and emotional reaction, whether metaphorical or literal, as well as physical things so portrayed (Hartutik et al., 2022).

Here identify and explain the imagery in the lyrics:

"Now the day bleeds
Into nightfall"

The imagery of the change from day to night is used in this line to give an image of the speaker's emotional condition. It creates a sense of sadness and sorrow as the day slips away, symbolizing the loss of the person they loved.

"I let my guard down
And then you pulled the rug"

This lyric shows someone pulling a rug out from under the speaker. It brings up a figurative image of unexpected weakness and emotional destabilization. The vivid metaphor helps the listener grasp the emotional impact of the other person's behavior on the speaker.

"And I tend to close my eyes when it hurts sometimes
I fall into your arms"

This statement brings up images of seeking comfort and safety. The act of closing one's eyes and falling into someone's arms symbolizes a desire to find comfort and escape from misery. The visual conveys a sense of safety and respite from the speaker's emotional distress.

Repetition

Repetition is a figure of speech that conveys the logical emphasis required to draw a reader's attention to a significant word or phrase in the text. It refers to repeated sounds, words, phrases, and clauses in a certain sequence, or even with no specific placement of the phrase, in order to create emphasis (Kemertelidze & Manjavidze, 2013). Here the identify explains the repetition in the lyrics:

> *"I need somebody to heal*
> *Somebody to know*
> *Somebody to have*
> *Somebody to hold"*

This lyric uses the word "somebody" several times to indicate the speaker's need for connection and emotional support. The repetition highlights the necessity of having someone to bring comfort and affection in their lives.

> *"It's easy to say*
> *But it's never the same"*

The phrase "it's easy to say" is repeated several times to contrast with the sentence "but it's never the same." This repetition emphasizes the gap between stating something and feeling it. It implies that mere words cannot express the speaker's thoughts and the severity of their loss.

> *"Now the day bleeds*
> *Into nightfall*
> *And you're not here*
> *To get me through it all"*

This refrain repeats the idea of the day turning into darkness and the speaker's disappearance. The repetition highlights the constant sorrow and the sense of being alone in the dark.

New Conceptual Mapping and New Stylistic Framework

It is well known that writers constantly strive to create and develop new conceptual images in their works as they consciously strive for novelty and creativity in literary expressions, which undoubtedly necessitates the development of not only new conceptual mappings but also new stylistic frameworks within which these mappings can be presented (Areef, 2016).

The song tells the story of a person who feels like being alone like there is no one to support him anymore. He (and I am saying he because most of the songs are written from the perspective of the singer) was used to the presence of a woman in his life, or at least a person who was there no matter what. He had it all and now he has nothing at all and feels he is going crazy, he feels that he is losing control. He needs someone beside him, someone to whom he can give all his love and affection, someone who can mend his wounds and make him forget about all the problems.

A new conceptual mapping speaks to the chorus and reflects a person sitting in the sun (the day fades into nightfall), thinking he is alone and that the people he loves are no longer present. Furthermore, he sincerely believed that those around him were trustworthy and could not hurt him, but he was mistaken. He was no longer cautious, and he gave his entire heart and soul to individuals who had betrayed him, people who had caused him pain. The grief is heightened since he spent his days believing he was loved, and grew accustomed to the idea, and now the person is no longer present to provide him with the love he was accustomed to. The author's yearning to run into someone's arms when he's having issues is discussed in the

second stanza. He now feels as if he is sinking, drowning, with no way out, but this time there is no one around to whom he can turn. He must deal with the issues on his own. Everyone advises him to forget the individuals who caused him pain, but he knows that the task isn't as simple as it appears, especially when he grows accustomed to the person next to him assisting him in running away from sand and difficulties.

Although the lyrics are not particularly sophisticated, they are profound. The repetition of the chorus throughout the song depicts the intensity of the person's sentiments and his desire to return to his life as it was. The song was created as a result of a recently ended relationship and the deaths of certain members of his family. He needed to craft a song that addressed both of their emotions, therefore "Someone You Loved" was born. Typically, a song is about conveying your emotions to others. If an author can accomplish this, he has reached for the stars. However, Lewis Capaldi went above and beyond. He was able to persuade individuals to share their feelings and tales with him. I forced them to open up and find a cause to continue. He created the song for the people because he wanted them to come to him and find inspiration for their own lives in the song. That's why he left the song with an open ending because he didn't want to push his story on anyone.

Extended and Complex Figurative Expression

Someone You Loved by Lewis Capaldi

I'm going under and this time I fear there's no one to save me	(1)
This all or nothing really got a way of driving me crazy	(2)
I need somebody to heal	(3)
Somebody to know	(4)
Somebody to have	(5)
Somebody to hold	(6)
It's easy to say	(7)
But it's never the same	(8)
I guess I kinda liked the way you numbed all the pain	(9)

Now the day bleeds   (10)
Into nightfall (11)
And you're not here (12)
To get me through it all   **(Repetition)** (13)
I let my guard down (14)
And then you pulled the rug (15)
I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved (16)

I'm going under and this time I fear there's no one to turn to (17)
This all or nothing way of loving got me sleeping without you (18)

Now, I need somebody to know (19)
Somebody to heal (20)
Somebody to have (21)
Just to know how it feels (22)
It's easy to say but it's never the same (23)
I guess I kinda liked the way you helped me escape (24)

<u>Now the day bleeds</u>   **(Repetition**) (25)
<u>Into nightfall</u> (26)
And you're not here (27)

To get me through it all	(28)
I let my guard down	*(29)*
And then you pulled the rug	*(30)*
I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved	(31)
And I tend to close my eyes when it hurts sometimes	(32)
I fall into your arms	(33)
I'll be safe in your sound 'til I come back around	(34)
For now the day bleeds **(Repetition)**	(35)
Into nightfall	(36)
And you're not here	(37)
To get me through it all	(38)
I let my guard down (**Repetition**)	(39)
And then you pulled the rug	(40)
I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved	(41)
But now the day bleeds	(42)
Into nightfall	(43)
And you're not here **(Repetition)**	(44)
To get me through it all	(45)
I let my guard down **(Repetition)**	(46)
And then you pulled the rug	(47)
I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved	(48)
I let my guard down (**Repetition**)	(49)
And then you pulled the rug	(50)
I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved	(51)

"Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi is a profound song filled with emotional and figurative expressions. The lyrics describe heartbreak and the pain of losing someone you love. Below is an analysis of some extended and complex figurative expressions in the song:

The lyrics *"Now the day bleeds into nightfall"* (Line 10 & 11) is a metaphorical expression for the passage of time, emphasizing how the pain and heartache continue throughout the day and into the night. The lyrics *"I was getting kind of used to being someone you loved"* (Line 16), this line employ iron to emphasize the contradiction between the speaker's growing comfort in the relationship and the eventual heartbreak.

Then, in the lyrics *"I let my guard down and then you pulled the rug"* (Line 29 & 30): This metaphor implies vulnerability and the feeling of betrayal. The rug being pulled out symbolizes a sudden and unexpected emotional blow.

After analyzing the lyrics, we could find some of the repetition that is *"Now the day bleeds into nightfall / I was getting kinda used to being someone you loved / I let my guard down and then you pulled the rug"* (underlined words). The repetition of this stanza emphasizes the pain of loss and the speaker's inability to cope with the absence of their loved one.

There is a sense of irony in the title itself, "Someone You Loved," suggesting an extended and complex figurative expression theory distance and detachment from the person he loves. The irony is in the contradiction between the title and the desperate longing expressed throughout the song. These figurative expressions contribute to the song's emotional depth, allowing listeners to empathize with the pain and heartache the singer is experiencing.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the conclusion of "Someone You Loved" by Lewis Capaldi elicits powerful emotional schema and conceptual metaphors to convey feelings of loss, vulnerability, and the

emotional impact of someone's absence. The song's lyrics may also be a reference to how time seems to drag when you're alone or heartbroken, as each minute seems to last forever. All things considered, the line is powerful and poignant, expressing a profound sense of loss and desire. Because of these strategies, listeners who can identify with the themes of love and heartbreak will find the song to be extremely meaningful.

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